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I claim:

1. In a method of placing a feeding tube in a patient wherein the feeding tube is inserted through the patient's nose or mouth and through the patient's pharynx for passage into and through the patient's esophagus for ultimate placement of the distal end of the tube in communication with the patient's small intestine, an improved method of determining that said distal tube end is passing into and through the esophagus rather than the patient's trachea, comprising the step of detecting the presence of CO_2 adjacent said distal tube end.

2. The method of claim 1, including the step of detecting the amount of CO_2 adjacent said tube end.

3. The method of claim 2, said amount-detecting step comprising the step of coupling a proximal portion of said tube with a CO_2 detecting machine in order to detect CO_2 passing through the tube from said distal end to said proximal portion.

Sub B2

4. A patient feeding tube comprising:

an elongated tube presenting a distal end adapted for insertion into a patient and a proximal portion designed to remain outside the patient; and

a fixture operably coupled with said proximal portion in order to permit attachment of a CO_2 detecting machine to the tube so that the presence of CO_2 adjacent said distal end may be detected when the tube is inserted into a patient.

5. The feeding tube of claim 4, said tube presenting a proximal end, said fixture comprising a tubular, bifurcated body presenting a pair of tubular legs, one of said legs secured to said proximal end, the other of said legs in communication with the interior of said tube.

6. The feeding tube of claim 5, including one or more intermediate coupling members for connecting said fixture and said machine.

Sub B3

7. The combination comprising:
an elongated patient feeding tube presenting a distal end adapted for insertion into a patient and a proximal portion designed to remain outside the patient; and
a CO_2 detecting machine operably coupled with said proximal portion of said tube so that the presence of CO_2 adjacent said distal end may be detected when the tube is inserted into a patient.

Sub D2

8. The combination of claim 7,
including a fixture operably coupled with said proximal portion,
said machine coupled with said fixture.

9. The combination of claim 8,
said tube presenting a proximal end, said fixture comprising a tubular, bifurcated body presenting a pair of tubular legs, one of said legs secured to said proximal end, the other of said legs in communication with the interior of said tube.

10. The combination of claim 9,
including one or more intermediate coupling members for connecting said fixture and said machine.

Sub B4

11. A fixture for connection to the proximal end of a feeding tube, said fixture comprising a bifurcated body presenting first and second tubular legs, said first leg having a connection end adapted for attachment to said proximal end to form a continuation thereof, said second leg in communication with the first leg and adapted for connection with a CO_2 detecting machine.

12. The fixture of claim 11, including a guide wire extending through said first leg and feeding tube, there being a guide wire mount removably secured to the end of said first leg remote from said connection end.

Add a7

7 add B5

ADD D3

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